INL Facilities

Setting the Stage for National Laboratory Pre-eminence

Idaho National Laboratory (INL) consists of an 890-square-mile area in southeastern Idaho typically referred to as the "INL Site," along with laboratories and administrative buildings located approximately 35 miles east in the city of Idaho Falls.

The three primary areas that constitute INL's key facilities reflect both the important missions being accomplished today and the laboratory's vision for the future. One area focuses on nuclear materials and processing, another on reactor technologies, and the third on science and technology. Because Idaho National Laboratory is destined to become the internationally recognized leader in nuclear energy research, development and demonstration in the next decade, the lab anticipates making significant changes to modernize its facilities.

Materials and Fuels Complex

The Materials and Fuels Complex (formerly Argonne National Laboratory-West) located on the INL Site is a prime testing center for advanced technologies associated with nuclear power systems. This complex is the nexus of research and development for new reactor fuels and related materials. As such, it will contribute increasingly

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The Energy of Innovation

Idaho National Laboratory

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efficient reactor fuels and the important work of nonproliferation – harnessing more energy with less risk.

At the Materials and Fuels Complex, projected new construction will include a facility for preparing remote-handled waste for shipment to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico. Depending on the feasibility of a key project, buildings will be constructed at this location to support manufacturing and assembling components for use in space applications.

The Materials and Fuels Complex is located 32 miles west of Idaho Falls on the high-desert sagebrush steppe of the Snake River Plain.

Advanced Test Reactor Complex

Also located on the INL Site, the Advanced Test Reactor Complex is dedicated to research supporting Department of Energy missions, including nuclear technology research. It will be the focal point for designing, testing and proving the new technologies of the nuclear renaissance. The new mission is broad, far-reaching and encompasses a large scope involving multiple technological options important to coming generations of nuclear power reactors.

Facilities planned at this complex include buildings to house laboratory activities, offices, warehousing and a cafeteria required to support the Advanced Test Reactor. A hot cell connected to the Advanced Test Reactor canal also will be included to support future materials and fuels development. Multicraft shop buildings will be constructed to enhance operational activities.

The Advanced Test Reactor Complex is located in the southwestern region of the Idaho National Laboratory Site, 47 miles west of Idaho Falls.

Research and Education Campus

The Research and Education Campus is the collective name for INL's administrative, educational, technical support and computer facilities in Idaho Falls, as well as in-town laboratories where researchers work on a wide variety of advanced scientific research and development projects. The campus name reflects the lab's connection to university and energy research.

INL is transforming infrastructure at the R&E Campus to support its mission by providing robust science and engineering capabilities. The R&E Campus will consolidate research and development capabilities and leverage upon the benefits of leased facilities, which will support energy research and significant growth in National & Homeland Security work.

Now under construction, and slated to open in the fall of 2008, is the Center for Advanced Energy Studies, a partnership among Boise State University, Idaho State University, the University of Idaho and INL. It will integrate capabilities and expand R&D opportunities for the research community, provide for energy technology R&D and training, and provide a hub for the university resource network.

Facilities already in place and those planned for the future are integral for transforming INL into a renowned research laboratory. With forefront research facilities, support infrastructure and management systems essential to delivering world-class research while operating to the highest standards of safety, environmental protection and efficiency, Idaho National Laboratory will help restore public confidence in nuclear energy through operational excellence.

Idaho National Laboratory is operated for the U.S. Department of Energy by Battelle Energy Alliance. Also operating on the INL Site are research, environmental and cleanup projects at other facility areas. Those operations are managed by separate contractors.

Two other INL Site facility areas provide specialized manufacturing and support services. The Specific Manufacturing Capability is the facility complex responsible for the production of heavy armor that helps make U.S. Army Abrams Tanks the world's best armored vehicles. Central Facilities Area, located centrally on the INL Site, is the main service and support center for INL's desert facilities. Activities here support transportation, maintenance, construction, environmental and radiological monitoring, security, fire protection, warehouses and calibration activities.

For more information

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